

Town of Wethersfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of the September 11, 2013 Meeting
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Chairman Rick Baldoni called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM in the Town Hall Conference Room, which was attended by Commissioners Rick Doran, Ralph Moyer, Linda Nielson, Robert Pulford, and Rebecca Zaliznock. Kathy Bagley of the Parks and Recreation Department was also in attendance.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes for July 10, 2013 were reviewed and on a Motion by R. Moyer, Seconded by B. Pulford, approved unanimously.

II. KATHY BAGLEY REPORT

- a. Ms. Bagley provided each Commissioner with a print out of members names, home and email addresses, phone numbers and commission terms.
- b. Upgrades to Mill Woods Park over the past several months have progressed and include the nearly-completed construction of the "Loretta's Dream" pavilion; and the replacement / drainage upgrade of the sand beach at Mill Woods pond.
- c. Christopher Shepard has resigned as Director of the Nature Center, and replaced by Rachael Sunny, a former Department of Energy and Environmental Protection employee. Ms. Sunny is the new Youth Development Manager and oversees the Parks and Recreation Department programs and the Youth Programs.
- d. The Army Corps of Engineers completed their application process for the dredging of the Wethersfield Cove channel, and will place the project out to bid using State-approved funding between December 2013 and March 2014.

III. NEW BUSINESS

R. Moyer raised the subject of an email recently received from Jim Woodworth of the Great Meadows Conservation Trust regarding the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) designation of locally important farmland soils to Connecticut towns. According to the NRCS (in Tolland, CT), locally important farmland soils are defined as prime, unique, or important farm land; and town officials from 35 of Connecticut's 169 towns have signed up (including Rocky Hill). Soils that meet specific criteria can receive the designation and be eligible for the federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program. This designation can also prequalify towns for Connecticut's Community Farmland Preservation Program and enable municipalities to place more focus on preserving agriculture in their town. The Commissioners agreed that this subject will be discussed at a future meeting.

Chairman Baldoni adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM, so moved by R. Doran and seconded by B. Pulford.

Respectfully submitted by

Rebecca M. Zaliznock